

REMARKS

Applicant, Jeffrey Mannion, and Applicants' attorney, John Williams, acknowledge with thanks the interview of November 7, 2005, kindly accorded them by Examiners Novosad and Chilcot.

During the course of the interview the construction and utility of Applicants' novel container support, in its various aspects, was explained. A sample overcap was demonstrated.

The Examiners' attention was drawn to the current situation in merchandise displays, in which goods in flexible packaging typically are given high visibility, but goods in relatively rigid containers, such as chips, nuts and tennis balls, often are relegated to inconvenient low shelving that does not have good sales visibility. Likewise, the Examiners' attention was drawn to the inconvenience in many instances of carrying relatively rigid containers, e.g., the difficulty of carrying both a cup of coffee and a cup of cereal in one hand or of carrying a tennis racket and a can of tennis balls in one hand.

At the interview, Applicant Mannion and Applicants' attorney explained the invention and called attention to the display, Fig. 5, and the carrying of goods of Figs. 2 and 3, made possible with embodiments of this invention.

It was explained that, according to the invention, a support is provided that is constructed to be connected with a predetermined container of the type having an upper rim or similar upper formation. The support in important cases is a circular ring, e.g. Fig. 1, but may for instance be a square ring, Fig. 12. In important alternatives, the support may be part of a lid or overcap closure, or it may not form a closure.

The support comprises a ring or similar surrounding structure larger than the upper formation of the predetermined container, and constructed to surround and connect with the upper formation of the container to suspend the container with its contents. The ring or similar surrounding structure is shallow, having an axial dimension substantially less than its lateral dimensions.

A flexible suspending element is constructed and arranged to support the ring or similar surrounding structure and, thereby, the container. The suspending element has an as-formed lower position. A free portion of this flexible suspending element is arranged to be lifted by

Interview
Record OK
2/24/06
-D